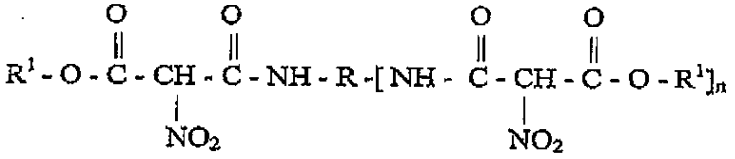
Amendments to Claims

Claim 1-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (new): A compound having the formula



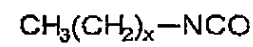
where
R is an unsubstituted or a substituted alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, or aromatic group or is derived from an aromatic or aliphatic residue of an isocyanate, diisocyanate, or polyisocyanate compound;
n is 1-10; and
R^1 is a branched or unbranched alkyl.

Claim 17 (new): A nitrile oxide precursor compound according to Claim 1 where R is substituted with alkyl, sulfate, sulfonate, alkoxy, CN, NO_2 or an aromatic group.

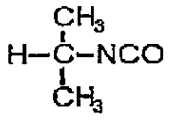
Claim 18 (new): The compound of claim 1 where R is a biphenyl group, fused rings or repeating aromatic groups.

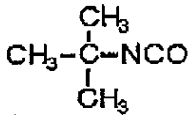
Claim 19 (new): The compound of claim 1 where R is or residue of an isocyanate, diisocyanate, or polyisocyanate compound selected from the group consisting of:

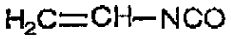
H_3C-NCO

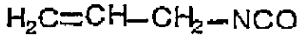


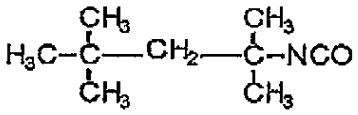
where x is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11 or 17

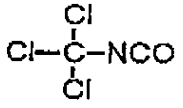


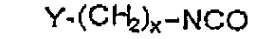




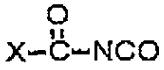




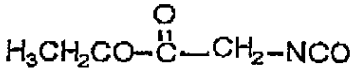


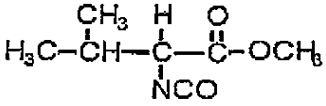


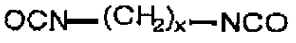
where Y is Br or Cl and x is 2 or 3



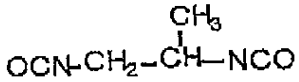
where X is CH_3 CH_2C-, ClH_2C-, Cl_3C-, H_3CH_2CO- or Cl

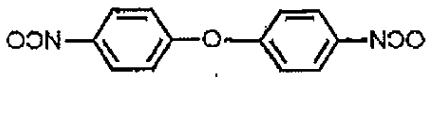


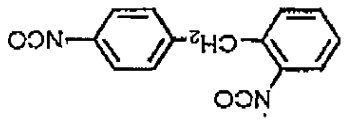


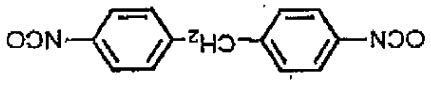


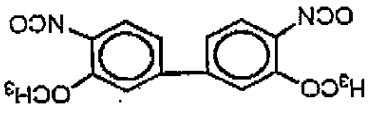
where x is 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12

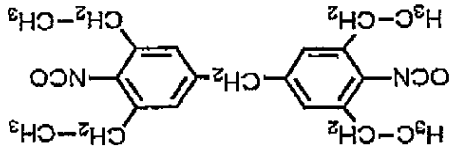


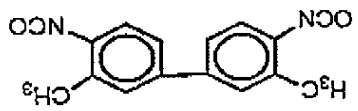


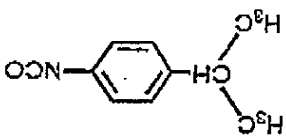


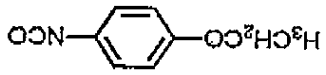


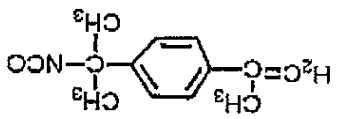


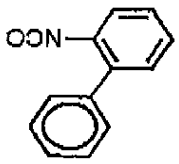


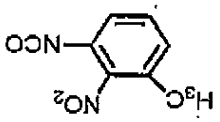


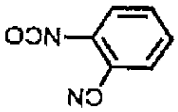


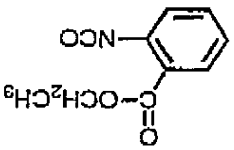


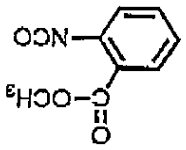


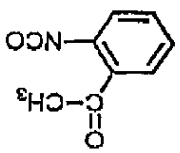




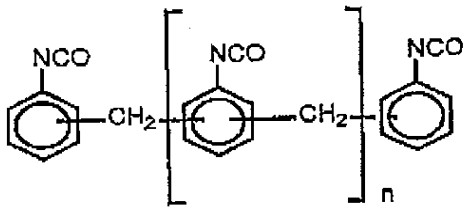




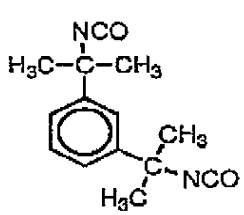


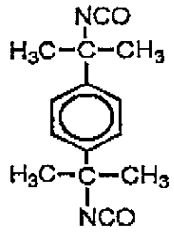


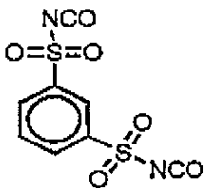
PAGE 7/16 * RCVD AT 1/2/2004 4:47:59 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:19087073706 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-08

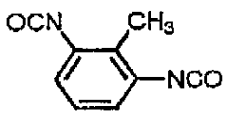


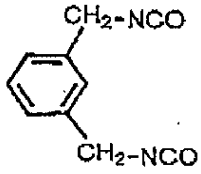
where n is 2, 3 or 4

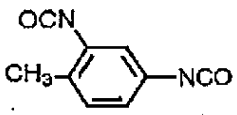


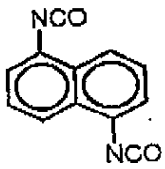


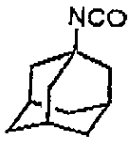


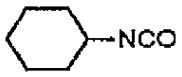


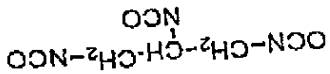


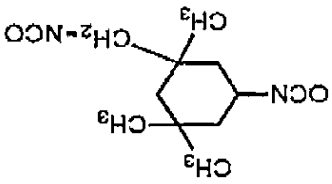


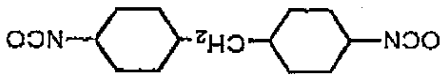


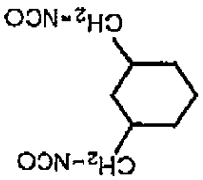


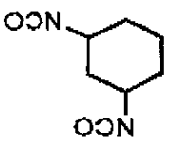


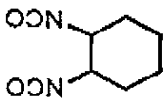


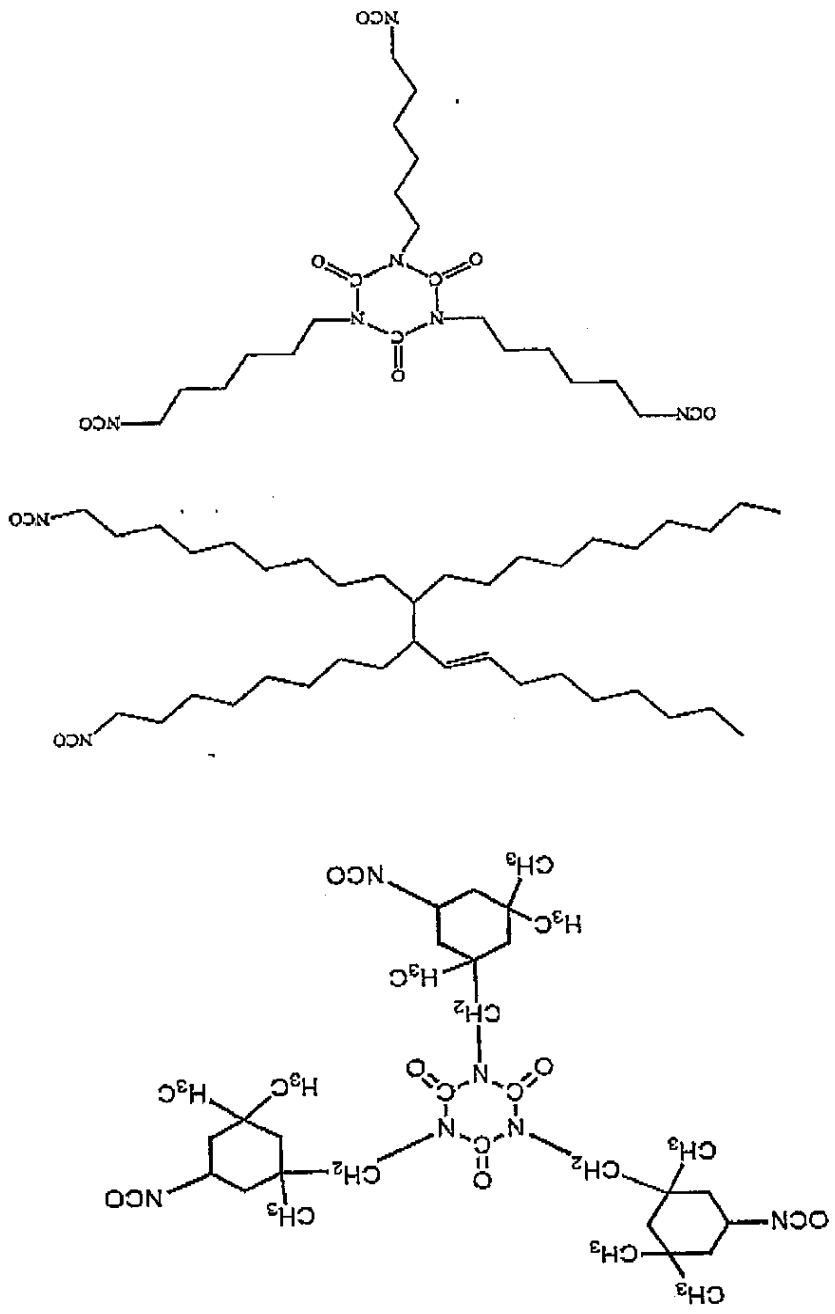




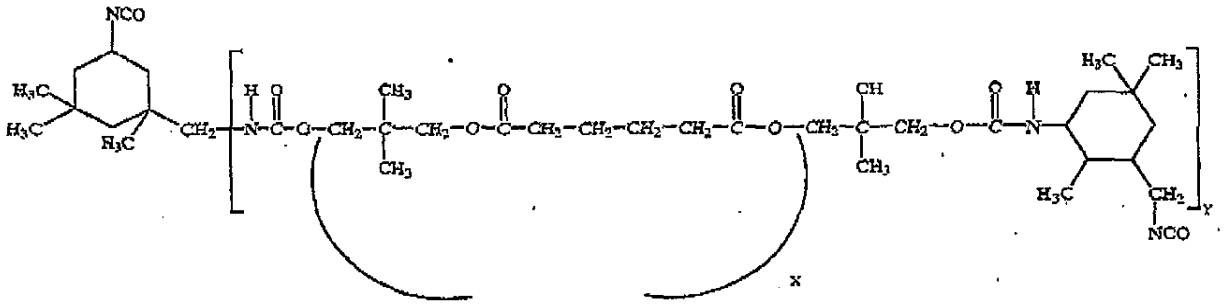








and

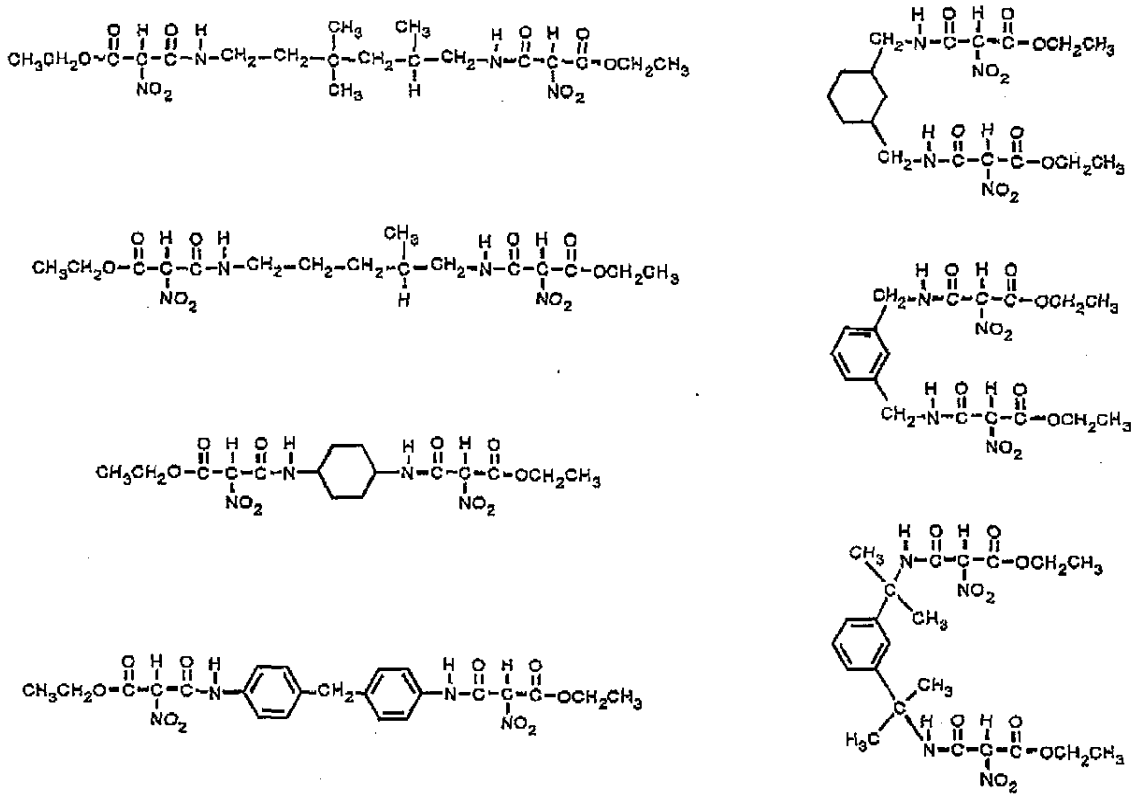


where X and Y are chosen so that the molecular weight of the polyneopentyl glycol adipate diisophorone terminated isocyante structure is approximately 1350.

Claim 20 (new): Claim 20 (new): The compound of claim 1 wherein R is derived from an aromatic or aliphatic residue of an isocyanate or diisocyanate compound selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-methylenebis(phenyl isocyanate) ("MDI"); hydrogenated MDI; isophorone diisocyanate ("IPDI"), 1-(1-isocyanato-1-methyl ethyl)-3-(1-methyl ethenyl)benzene("m-TMI"), isophorone amd triisocyanate, isophorone, tetramethylenexylenediisocyanate.

Claim 21 (new): The compound of claim 1 where R is C_{3-17} alkyl.

Claim 22 (new): A compound selected from the group consisting of:



Claim 23 (new): A process for the generation of a nitrile oxide precursor compound comprising the steps of

a) generating a potassium enolate of ethyl nitroacetate in situ;

b) isolating said enolate; and

c) adding to said isolated enolate an isocyanate, diisocyanate or polyisocyanate material.

Claim 24 (new): The process of claim 23 further comprising the step of mixing the diisocyanate with a polar solvent prior to adding the diisocyanate to the enolate.

Claim 25 (new): The process of Claim 24 wherein the polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of diglyme, monoglyme, glyme, THF, DMF and DMSO.

Claim 26 (new): A process for crosslinking a polymer composition comprising adding the compound of claim 1 to a polymer solution and heating the mixture to form a nitrile oxide in situ and a crosslinked polymer.

Claim 27 (new): The process according claim 26 wherein the polymer comprises one or more pendant or terminal functional groups selected from the group consisting of alkenes, alkynes, nitriles and isocyanates.

Claim 28 (new): A urethane composition which is stable to temperatures below 120°C comprising the compound of claim 1.

Claim 29 (new): A pressure sensitive adhesive, reactive hot melt adhesive, polyurethane dispersion, thermosetting adhesive, thermoplastic adhesive or coating comprising the compound of claim 1.

Claim 30 (new): An AB copolymer where A comprises a compound of claim 19 which is derived from 1-(1-isocyanato-1-methyl ethyl)-3-(1-methyl ethenyl)benzene ("m-TMI") and B is a compound with olefinic functionality.

Claim 31 (new): A polyurethane reactive hot melt adhesive comprising a compound of claim 1.